

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve for a bus bar connection, having inner and outer electrically conductive surfaces, that is used to connect two switchboard sections of a gas-insulated switchboard system, wherein:

the connecting sleeve is an insulating, elastic material that is in the form of a tube;

the ~~connecting sleeve has an~~ outer, electrically conductive surface ~~that of the connecting sleeve~~ is grounded, ~~and an inner, electrically conductive surface~~; and

the connecting sleeve has a sensor in the form of a coupling electrode that is imbedded in the insulating material and electrically insulated from the inner and outer electrically conductive surfaces of the connecting sleeve.

2. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 1, wherein the sensor ~~coupling electrode~~ has a sensor surface that is tangential to the outer surface.

3. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 1, wherein ~~the coupling electrode is so imbedded in the insulating material that the coupling electrode is electrically insulated from the inner surface and from the outer surface, the coupling electrode having the~~ sensor has an edge area that overlaps the outer surface, at least in part.

4. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 1, wherein the sensor ~~coupling electrode~~ is connected to a plug connector that is positioned in an opening that is surrounded by the insulating material.

5. (Previously Presented) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 4, wherein the plug connector can be connected to a mating element; and in that the opening is matched to the outer shape of this mating element so as to form a dust-proof plug-type connection.

6. (Currently Amended) Bus bar connection with ~~[[a]]~~ the connecting sleeve of claim 1 to connect two switchboard sections of a gas-insulated switchboard system, ~~wherein:~~

~~—— the connecting sleeve is of an insulating, elastic material and is in the form of a tube;~~

~~—— the connecting sleeve has an outer, electrically conductive surface that is grounded, and an inner, electrically conductive surface; and~~

~~—— the connecting sleeve has a coupling electrode that is imbedded in the insulating material.~~

7. (Currently Amended) Gas-insulated ~~switchboard system, in particular a gas-insulated~~ medium-voltage switchboard system, with at least two switchboard sections that are connected to one another through a bus bar connection that incorporates ~~[[a]]~~ the connecting sleeve of claim 1. ~~wherein:~~

~~—— the connecting sleeve is of an insulating, elastic material and is in the form of a tube;~~

~~—— the connecting sleeve has an outer, electrically conductive surface that is grounded, and an inner, electrically conductive surface; and~~

~~—— the connecting sleeve has a coupling electrode that is imbedded in the insulating material.~~

8. (Previously Presented) The connecting sleeve of claim 1, wherein the connecting sleeve has a hollow center which encompasses the bus bar connection, and wherein the voltage potential of the bus bar is applicable to the inner, electrically conductive surface of the connecting sleeve.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The connecting sleeve~~ The bus bar connection of claim 6, wherein the connecting sleeve has a hollow center which encompasses the bus bar connection, and wherein the voltage potential of the bus bar is applicable to the inner, electrically conductive surface of the connecting sleeve.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The connecting sleeve~~ The gas-insulated switchboard system of claim 7, wherein the connecting sleeve has a hollow center which encompasses the bus bar connection, and wherein the voltage potential of the bus bar is applicable to the inner, electrically conductive surface of the connecting sleeve.